ST. MARK’S CONFRONTS ITS PAST—AND ITS PRESENT P. 14
Twenty members of the class of 2020 have committed to participate in college and university athletic programs for the 2020-2021 academic year. Five are in Division I, one is playing in Division II, and 14 are suiting up for Division III programs.

“At St. Mark’s, our coaches take great pride in preparing our student-athletes to play at the next level,” says Director of Athletics John Levandowski. “It is a proud time for all.”

1. Joe Felix, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
2. Will Bundy, Trinity College (Conn.)
3. Madeleine Wass, Lafayette College
4. Grace Gibbons, University of Massachusetts
5. Charlotte Galasso, Boston College
6. Paula Horvath, Tufts University
7. Jordan Uzochukwu, Colby College
8. Noah Robb, Bowdoin College
9. Von Mabbs, Swarthmore College
10. Hunter Mulvey, Assumption College
11. Reese Horstein, Connecticut College
12. Dom Mengola, Wesleyan University
13. Wyatt Scotti, Northeastern University
14. Brett Federico, St. Lawrence University
15. Louis Lyons, Washington & Lee University
16. Sophie Student, Virginia Tech
17. Phoebe Macleod, Bucknell University
18. JB Clarke, Wentworth Institute of Tech.
19. Bobby Sorensen, Amherst College
20. Ava Limonciello, Trinity University (Texas)
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Visit www.stmarksmag.com to see what Carrie Hill ’98 is up to.

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END OF AN ERA: Ginny Umiker came to St. Mark’s in 1980.
As I reflect on what has taken place since the last issue of St. Mark’s Magazine was published, it is hard to believe. The heinous killings of Black Americans have brought the issues of police brutality and systemic racism into sharp focus. COVID-19 has claimed the lives of more than a million people around the world, with nearly a quarter of those deaths here in the United States. The U.S. unemployment rate increased 10 percent in one month. To say that 2020 has been a challenging year would be an enormous understatement.

And yet, as I look back on the work of St. Markers over the past several months, I cannot help but be inspired. The pivot last spring from in-person to remote learning happened very quickly. At St. Mark’s, this transition, though not seamless, was made with thoughtfulness, creativity, attention to detail, and with the needs of our students at the center of every decision we made.

I am also inspired when I think back on the work of our faculty to prepare for a robust and inspiring program of hybrid learning this fall. This summer, all faculty members participated in immersive training in hybrid course design, guided by research and best practices identified by Colleen Worrell, director of the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. Our approach to hybrid learning—blending best practices of online and in-person pedagogy—was also informed by feedback from students and families in our spring remote learning period, which included a desire for more consistent and user-friendly standards of course design, and more personal touchpoints for instruction and collaborative learning.

The tragic killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd are the latest cases in a troubling pattern of violence against Black Americans, and prompted deep reflection and calls for action by St. Mark’s students, alumni, faculty and staff, and other community members. The Instagram account @Blackatsm has provided an important forum for Black members of our community to share stories of their experiences at St. Mark’s. I have found these stories to be painful, sad, and troubling. The testimonials present a call for St. Mark’s to commit comprehensively, in actions as well as words, to anti-racist work. In July, I shared the School’s first steps in the work of making St. Mark’s an antiracist School. You can read more about these steps on page 17.

The Board of Trustees has offered its full support for these steps, which represent only the first in a series that St. Mark’s will take in the coming weeks, months, and years in the interest of making St. Mark’s a truly antiracist School and a truly inclusive community. I look forward to this work, and I look forward to feedback from all of you as we engage in these efforts.
MINING CREATIVITY

Sculpting in hands-on work remotely is not without obstacles for science students, but one creative band of St. Mark’s engineers took a proactive approach to their subject the spring, using the video game Minecraft.

“The St. Mark’s engineering class is a project-based, hands-on approach to engineer- ing,” says teacher Rob Bauer. “Students work on projects of their choosing throughout the year. Just a couple of months into 2020, the class faced its biggest engineering challenge to date: COVID-19.”

Class of 2020 graduates Blake Gattuso, Nathaniel King, Aditya Mynampaty, and Will Osborne—calling themselves “The Treehouse Group”—had been building a viewing platform for the St. Mark’s cross country team when COVID-19 brought their project to a complete stop. But “adversity is the mother of invention,” says Bauer. “With remote learning underway, our intrepid team of engineers decided to continue their work virtually, and they built their viewing platform in the world of Minecraft.”

Minecraft is a “sandbox” video game in which participants create and build their own environment. Bauer, immediately worked with the students’ idea and “created a platform for the St. Mark’s cross country team when COVID-19 brought their project to a complete stop.”

“Can you build all of St. Mark’s in Minecraft?”

The original Treehouse Group—joined by V Former Jimmy Flathers—had built the challenge head-on. They began to build a block-based virtual St. Mark’s campus, including the exterior view of the Main Building, the front of the School, the interior of Belmont Chapel, and the main Dining Hall.

Students at MIT, Boston University, Emerson College, and Berklee College of Music, among others, have also turned to Minecraft to collaborate on virtual-campus projects during COVID-19. “This is college-level stuff,” Bauer says. “It is a massive undertaking, but they love it. And if you love it, it ain’t work.”

St. Mark’s Magazine is high quality and its pages are full of photos and graphics. The new magazine is designed to be easy on the eyes. It is a mix of stories, essays, and improvements at St. Mark’s. The new magazine is high quality and it should be a part of something that workers and sick patients. “It’s so important that we be a part of something that we believe in,” says Melissa Anderson, associate director of advancement services, who made masks in place. When she discovered that there was no more quarter-inch elastic to be found anywhere, she bought one-inch elas- tic and cut each strip into fours. “That took time,” she says, “but pinning the fabric to make each mask was most the time-consuming part of the process.”

Melissa Anderson, associate director of advancement services, made masks from her home in Worcester. “I needed to feel that I was doing something,” Anderson says, a St. Mark’s staff member since 2010. “Something to give me purpose in the middle of all of this.” A friend who is a nurse at the Llady Clinic told her about the shortage of face masks for healthcare workers and sick patients. “It’s so important that we be a part of something that can make a difference,” Anderson says.

Thank you for your thoughts to St. Mark’s Magazine editor@stmarksschool.org.

Congratulations to the newspapers and magazines that funded the new magazine. They have put the work of their contributors in the spotlight. It’s so important that we be a part of something that we believe in.”

—NICK RUBEL ’74

Answering the Call

How were you able to build this pro- gram in such a short period of time? What resources were especially helpful to you and your colleagues? There was tremendous generosity of spirit in the education community about sharing resources and ideas. Over spring break, I joined faculty colleagues in a five online course, “Designing for Online Learning,” offered by Global Online Academy. This course was tremendously useful in the formulation of our plan. I was also fortunate to join assistant heads and deans of academics from area independent schools on Zoom calls to share ideas and help with problem- solving. Finally, the formation of an ad-hoc St. Mark’s remote learning team brought together great wisdom from the Academics Office, the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, and the Academic Technology and Technology teams, and allowed us to more creatively and build resources to help students and faculty make a rapid adaptation to this new way of learning.

Some subjects and courses lend them- selves more readily to remote learning, and some don’t translate as obviously online. How did teachers make some of those subjects successful in a remote environment? Teacher founder Biz Stone has noted that “constant inspires creativity”—a truth that has been borne out for us at St. Mark’s in remote learning. So we know that there is already a tremendous amount of creativity across the curricu- lum. That said, the disciplines in the area of the house traditionally labeled “cre- ative”—visual and performing arts—have embraced the limitations presented by the remote format, designing opportunities for students to come together around the core skills of their disciplines—observa- tion, expression, and critique. As in other disciplines, communities of educators have sprung up on social networks to share approaches and projects that translate well to the remote format. We are most fortu- nate to have our Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning to collect and share ideas, and provide direct support to faculty in learning new skills and approaches.

COVID-19 has provided some oppor- tunities for creative thinking on the part of both students and teachers. What can you share about students and teachers working creatively during this time?

I have nothing but admiration for the creativity that my faculty colleagues have applied to their courses, and our students deserve some of the spotlight as well. Ms. Carson, advise to LEA, our academic journal, shared a remote learning issue, animated by student work in the human- ities. Our literary magazine, Vindex, has also featured videos from students describing their creative processes and workshops. I am in awe of students who have reached across physical distance to share slices of their home lives, along with their enthusiasm and creative lenses with peers, including filmmakers Julian Yang ’20 and his Chapel speech on “accidents,” singer/songwriter Frances Hoebesten ’21, and visual artist Jenny Tang ’20. In a curri- cular way, members of the community—students and faculty alike—are working harder to share their creative gifts back into the community, and we are enriched by the chance to see and hear them.

Are there takeaways that St. Mark’s will be able to apply to its standard curricu- lum when fully in-person courses resume? The key shift we have emphasized is that teachers should be thinking of themselves as “designers of learning.” Presenting materials in a more asynchronous format to a diverse community of students has brought a heightened awareness of how students will interact with the material, and how we can still be “present” in the digital elements of our courses. Teachers have learned to articulate a clear and visually engaging weekly plan for their class to help with student navigation and “wayfinding,” and to explain how each assignment connects to their overall learning goals for the course. If students understand the “why” of their learning, they will be more motivated to stick with the work of the course.

—CALEY CHORIAN
PRIZES REWARD COVID-19 SERVICE

Two members of the St. Mark’s community were recognized in June with year-end prizes for outstanding service to the School during a most unusual academic year.

Jeniene Matthews, English Department faculty member and digital learning coach for faculty, was awarded the George Howell Kidder Faculty Prize, established by Kidder’s children at the time of his retirement from the St. Mark’s Board of Trustees. This prize is awarded by the head of school to a faculty member who has contributed to St. Mark’s above and beyond the ordinary and who has shown the same love of learning, compassion, and commitment to excellence which marked Kidder’s life.

In nominating Matthews for the award, one faculty colleague noted, “as we faced additional challenges with the pandemic, Jeniene did a phenomenal job helping fellow teachers transition to remote learning with a zeal for new ideas and a saint-like patience for the technologically challenged.”

Seth Brodeur, help desk technician in the Technology Department, received the Class of 1961 Frederick M. Burr Staff Prize, established by the Class of 1961 on the occasion of their 40th reunion to honor one of their teachers, Fred Burr, and his emphasis on the contribution of staff to the quality of the education provided by St. Mark’s. The Burr Prize is awarded annually by the head of school to a member of the staff who demonstrates extraordinary support of the work of St. Mark’s adults and students. Brodeur was praised by colleagues as a “Knight in shining armor,” “calmly patient whether assisting students or adults,” and “consistently going above and beyond to provide the highest level of service possible to make sure that faculty, staff, and students feel respected, understood, and have their issues resolved as quickly as possible.”

Well-deserved congratulations to Jeniene and Seth.

WASHINGTON, D.C.— School John C. Warner ’74 recently announced the appointment of John Daves to the position of director of community and equity affairs. Dr. Daves joined St. Mark’s on July 1.

Most recently upper school principal at Carolina Day School in Asheville, N.C., Dr. Daves has also served as dean of faculty at the Pennington School in Pennington, N.J.; director of diversity and inclusion at the Pennington School, earned his B.A. in political science at Susquehanna University, M.A.T. in English at Colgate University, and his Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Maryland.

“Of the many features of Dr. Daves’ background that made his candidacy stand out,” said Warner, “is the though leadership he has exhibited in each of his schools in the approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion both inside and outside the community and equity affairs. Dr. Daves’ dissertation both inside and outside the community are engaged learners, preparing ourselves to lead today to make a better tomorrow.”

“I hope to use some of my own experiences to inspire faculty, students, and staff to communicate about our own identity stories, coordinate what we have learned for our own communal growth, and collaborate and creatively reflect by developing self-awareness skills from each other. I hope that our work together will demonstrate why we as a school are employed in business, financial, arts, design, media, entertainment, sports, media, financial, arts, design, business, or education industries.

We thank Jeniene and Seth for their contributions to St. Mark’s above and beyond the ordinary and who have shown the same love of learning, compassion, and commitment to excellence which marked Kidder’s life.

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Well-deserved congratulations to Jeniene and Seth.

IN BRIEF

1 IN 4 ALUMNI have donated in each of the past five years.

57% of current undergraduates say they were more prepared for college than their peers.

78% of current undergraduates say they were more prepared for college than their peers.

1 IN 4 ALUMNI have received in-state or out-of-state financial aid.

87% of current undergraduates say they were more prepared for college than their peers.

Alumni app.

88% of current undergraduates say they were more prepared for college than their peers.

1 IN 4 ALUMNI have received in-state or out-of-state financial aid.

83% have been employed within the last 10 years.

58% believe the academic program is strong.

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83% have been employed within the last 10 years.

1 IN 4 ALUMNI have received in-state or out-of-state financial aid.

83% are satisfied or very satisfied with their experience as a student at St. Mark’s.

91% believe the academic program is strong.

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John Camp, English Teacher and Director of Experiential Learning

FOR ENGLISH TEACHER and Director of Experiential Learning John Camp (who goes by “Camp”), the move to remote learning in March meant the relocation of his classes from the English Wing to the virtual platform Zoom, via the School Street home he shares with his wife Tara of the St. Mark’s Admission Office and their three children. As in his classroom, Camp surrounds himself at home with an ecletic collection of inspiring books and artifacts.

George Wendell Kiddier Faculty Prize: Jesse Matthews, English Department

Jesse Matthews

In his office during regular school, kids are not the only young people he has to keep an eye on. Matthews says: “I mean, my 5-year-old turns 6 today, and most kids are gone. So it’s a little different leadership styles on the island, and Luke is considered a kind of fox.”

Matthews.

Jack Shephard from LOST. “The John Locke in a Cause.”

The John Locke class focuses on interdisciplinary art, psychology, and writing. “What we end up with is different leadership styles on the island, and Locke is considered a kind of fox,” Jack is seen as a ‘man of faith’ while Jack is left in the bookcase.

“The John Locke fiction.”

On the bookshelf is a work that inspired me toward a novel can help a reader focus and focusing on a specific life. I read Dickens’ is a work that inspired me toward a novel can help a reader focus and focusing on a specific life. I read Dickens’ Great Expectations inspired me toward a novel can help a reader focus and focusing on a specific life. I read Dickens’ Great Expectations inspired me toward a novel can help a reader focus and focusing on a specific life. I read Dickens’ Great Expectations inspired me toward a novel can help a reader focus and focusing on a specific life.

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PERSISTENCE PERSONIFIED

For three years, Christian Dwirantwi ’21 has been a dedicated member of the St. Mark’s wrestling team. The Norwood, Pennsylvania native was rewarded with an All-Independent School League honorable mention selection last season. Beyond the wrestling mat, Chris is a hard-working student, a loyal friend, and a cheerful presence around campus.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN WRESTLING?

I got started in wrestling when I came to St. Mark’s. I had never wrestled before. During my III Form year, I thought I wanted to play basketball because that is what I did in the 8th grade. Then I realized that St. Mark’s allows you the opportunity to try new things, so I figured I would try out wrestling.

AS A WRESTLER, WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO, AND WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST?

The number-one person that comes to mind is Kareem Chambers ’19, who was a captain last year with my brother. Kareem was one of my practice partners last year and always gave me 100 percent when we wrestled. He encouraged me to try new moves and take risks. Also, my coach, Dave Nelson, continues to inspire me and saw my potential to be one of the best in New England.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO COME TO ST. MARK’S?

I came to St. Mark’s because I thought the School provided a great opportunity to learn, not only academically but also about other people’s cultures and lifestyles, especially since I come from a family in which my dad is from Ghana, West Africa.

BEYOND SPORTS, WHAT HAS BEEN SPECIAL ABOUT YOUR ST. MARK’S EXPERIENCE?

The bonds you make in the dorms with your friends on a late Saturday night; playing video games, watching movies, or just listening to music together. I became a lot closer to all the boys in Sawyer last year, and it’s all thanks to the special close community that St. Mark’s has.

CHRIS

IN BRIEF

2020-21

ST. MARK’S

ST. MARK’S

| FALL 2020

ST. MARK’S

| FALL 2020

IN BRIEF

14-10-2

Pumped by a dominant defense (allowing just 1.89 goals per game with three shutouts), girl’s varsity hockeydoubled its win total from the previous season, going from five postseason birth in 22 years to nine in 2020. Three heading the St. Mark’s offense were MVP – Bella Frey ‘20, MIP – Will Bundy ’21, and All-Independent School League Sportsmanship Award recipient Robbie O’Keefe ‘22.

14-10-2

BOY’S VARSITY HOCKEY

ISL MVP – Ryder Henry ’20

ISL HM – Lydia Rascher ’20

Flood Shield – Tucker Hartmann ’20

Wiedergott Award – Ciccarello ’21

Maker Prize – Ciccarello ’21

Boys’ varsity squash, led by MVP Ryder Henry ’20 and MIP Jack Cai ’21, also received the coveted ISL team Sportmanship Award.

22-4-2

BOY’S VARSITY BASKETBALL

Boys’ basketball set a new team mark for regular season victories, posting a 22-4-2 record. The team was also honored with the Independent School Athletic Conference All-Star recognition. St. Mark’s MVP) earned New England Prep School Athletic Conference All-Star recognition.

17-6 (.739) overall; 14-5 (.737) regular season; 14-11-2 (.537)

VARSITY WRESTLING

ISL MVP – Ciccarello ’21

ISL HM – Nichols ’20

Maker Prize – Ciccarello ’21

Fondos Huyug ’20

All-Independent School League All-Star – Sommers, Perez, Dwirantwi

MVP – Bobby Sommers ‘20

ISL HM – Ava Limonciello ’20

MIP – Jack Cai ’21

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Maker Prize – Ciccarello ’21

Fondos Huyug ’20

All-Independent School League All-Star – Sommers, Perez, Dwirantwi

MVP – Bobby Sommers ‘20

ISL HM – Ava Limonciello ’20

MIP – Jack Cai ’21

Boys’ varsity hockey set a new team mark for regular season victories, posting a 22-4-2 record. The team was also honored with the Independent School Athletic Conference All-Star recognition. St. Mark’s MVP) earned New England Prep School Athletic Conference All-Star recognition.

17-6 (.739) overall; 14-5 (.737) regular season; 14-11-2 (.537)
BECOMING ANTIRACIST

BY KRISTEN WALSH, NICK NOBLE ’76, AND CALEB COCHRAN
ILLUSTRATION BY FRANCESCO BONGIORNI

St. Mark’s Confronts Its Past—and Its Present
The truth is often uncomfortable.

“Aspects of St. Mark’s past are ugly—there is no other way to put it,” Head of School John C. Warren ’74 wrote in response to powerful stories of racism that St. Mark’s alumni, students, and former faculty members have shared on social media through the @BlackatSM Instagram account, which launched in June. Some experiences took place many years ago, while others are much more recent. Together, the accounts paint a troubling picture of the experiences of Black St. Mark’s students.

“Recently, I was elected Monitor, I remember overhearing two of my white counterparts hypothesizing that I must have been the faculty’s choice,” wrote one alumna. A member of the Class of 1999 recalled: “First week at SM—I was told I was too Black to be speaking Spanish and that I was no longer in the hoodie and should stick to speaking English.”

The posts resonated with Michael Boulware Moore ’80, a member of the School’s Board of Trustees. “I was admitted to the School, but I was never really let in,” Moore says. “It was a distinction that was very real and very painful.”

Many independent schools have launched “Black” social media accounts, including Independent School League schools, including Independent School League schools, including Groton, Middlesex, Milton, Nobles, Rivers, Tabor, and Thayer, as well as Andover, Deerfield, Exeter, Choate Rosemary Hall, and many other independent schools throughout the country.

“Shame on us for not doing this work earlier,” Moore says. “We didn’t have the courage to have these conversations, and now it’s been very clear and very painful.” Moore says. “It was a distinction that was very real and very painful.”

By a larger pattern of systemic racism in the United States. Research shows that Black Americans are more than twice as likely as white Americans to be the subject of a racially motivated hate crime, and also more than twice as likely to be the victim of a fatal police shooting.

A CULTURE SHIFT

Brittany Bing ’15 launched @BlackatSM on June 17. “As a student at St. Mark’s, I was passionate about encouraging dialogue and encouraging difficult conversations for students and people in the community,” she says. “I thought that this would be the perfect opportunity to do so for this moment.”

At the time, she never imagined how quickly it would build momentum. As of October, the account had more than 1,500 followers.

“I didn’t really expect so many allies to be engaged with the content; I didn’t expect that many people to care,” Bing says. “That just shows the cultural shift that’s taking place, because when I was at St. Mark’s, conversations about race were like pulling teeth. But the response from the School community has made me disproportionately optimistic about the pace of change and how people are changing their attitudes toward Black Lives Matter, systemic racism, and inclusion.”

Taron Bradley ’95 agrees. “If you’re allowing students to freely have these conversations, you’re also allowing the administration to help fix it and help work through it.”

Bradley says it was the @BlackatSM page and a petition created by the Pathways Prefects that “really put a fire under a lot of BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, and people of color] alumni. It made us see that the students can’t do this alone. We understood the exact same feelings that they have, and we’re not going to let anyone sweep it under the rug as unnecessary feelings—not only at the School, but at other institutions and in the workplace.”

The petition created by the Pathways Prefects—Bannon Jones ’21, Vianey Morales ’21, Daniella Pozo ’22, and

ACTION STEPS

On July 8, Head of School John C. Warren ’74 shared the School’s first action steps in the work toward becoming a truly antiracist school. Here are those steps, as explained by Mr. Warren:

1. An Anti-Racism Task Force will identify action steps for St. Mark’s to take and will be chaired by Mr. Warren.

2. Faculty and staff members will engage in mandatory antiracist professional development programming. Every year, half of our staff will spend a day off-campus, and one daylong on-campus professional development day will be devoted to anti-racist work. All faculty will be required to attend a regional or national anti-racist conference at least every three years.

3. St. Mark’s counseling services will augment our current program to address the mental health needs for students of color, and specifically Black students, including the presumption of depression, an issue starting in 2020-2021. A health professional of color with expertise in supporting students of color will be hired as an addition to our current counseling staff. This person will also provide expertise to help our current counselors increase their cultural competency. We will also form a coalition for their work with students of color. In addition, we will implement a confidential process for our students to seek support in times of crises for incidents of bias or racism that occur on our campus.

“As a student at St. Mark’s, I was passionate about encouraging dialogue and difficult conversations.”
If you’re allowing students to freely have those conversations, you’re also allowing the administration to help fix it and help work through it.”

—SAMANTHA WANG ’21

“There are times with the curriculum where there are a lot of windows for students of color, but not a lot of mirrors.”

—SHYREETA PEACOX ’92

“We have only scratched the surface,” says Taren Bradley ’93. “The whole idea is to keep our community involved.”

“White Fragility, by Robin DiAngelo
White Fragility is North America live in a social environment that protects and insulates them from race-based stress,” says Robin DiAngelo. “This book explains the dynamics of white fragility and how we can become more aware of it, and learn how to create the opening work toward racial justice.”

What If I Say the Wrong Thing?, by Vernā A. Myers
What If I Say the Wrong Thing? is a book Myers wrote to help people of color, including many experienced by the author herself, “to talk about race issues and situations in our own lives.”

How to Be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi
How to Be an Antiracist reenergizes and fundamentally points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about racial justice in America—for better or worse. Fundamentally, points us toward balancing newspaper headlines with the stories of the communities and the people involved.”

Reading List
Immeasurable Impact

This spring, St. Mark’s bid farewell to four retiring faculty and staff members, all of whom served the School for at least 25 years. We offer our thanks and best wishes to Rick and Ginny Umiker, Marion Donovan, and Steve Curtis. Your impact on St. Mark’s is both indelible and immeasurable.

All-Star Team

Rick and Ginny Umiker, senior teacher and senior staffer, respectively, retired in June with more than 80 years at St. Mark’s between them.

Rick arrived at St. Mark’s in 1976, fresh out of Hobart College. He was hired as an intern in the Math Department and quickly became an integral part of the School community. In his second year in Southborough, he took the reins of the cross-country program in its very first season as a varsity sport. He guided the Lion harriers to a respectable .500 record that fall, and the next year led the varsity team to its first winning campaign. Over 24 seasons, Rick posted a record of 154-96, winning the ISL title in 1985 and New England Championships in 1985 and 1993.

In other athletic endeavors, Rick was introduced to the game of fives, a classic English version of handball. At the time, St. Mark’s and Groton had two of the only three fives courts in the United States. Much taken with the sport, Rick joined a group of faculty on a trip to England in 1979, invited by the British Rugby Fives Association to participate in a tour of schools across Southern England, competing in games at each stop. Upon returning home, the St. Mark’s traveling contingent became charter members of the U.S. Rugby Fives Association, based in Southborough.

But Rick is first and foremost an educator—a math teacher of extraordinary insight and ability. To him, math is an ideal playground for intellectual exploration and development. “Rick has taught hundreds of students the importance of lifelong learning, and given countless hours of extra help,” says his longtime faculty colleague, Art Teacher Barb Putnam. “He has a deep interest in the beauty of mathematics, and he challenges students to develop the capacity for thinking creatively about structure, time, and space, unlocking the mystery behind the equations, expressing that beauty and sense of wonder.”

Ginny Umiker arrived on campus after she and Rick were married in 1980. She soon became a member of the staff, organizing student activities and special events for the St. Mark’s family, even while raising a family of her own.

“All three of the Umiker children went on to attend St. Mark’s. Charles graduated in 1999, Ben in 2002, and Julia in 2006. Over the years, Rick became more deeply involved with St. Mark’s future in areas beyond the classroom or athletics. In the late 1980s, he served on the search committee charged with finding a successor to headmaster Mark Barlow. In 1989, he was a faculty representative on the committee that put together a long-range plan for St. Mark’s under headmaster Chris Mabley. He also served on the Senior Disciplinary Committee during the early 1990s.”

Recognizing Rick’s ability to “foster excellence in mathematics,” Heads of School Tony and Elsa Hill named him recipient of the A. Watson Armour III Mathematics Chair. Rick earned his graduate degree in education from Harvard and was appointed by the Hills as assistant head of school and dean of faculty. In those two roles, Rick was instrumental in bringing many skilled educators to St. Mark’s. Significantly, he played a key role...
in the creation of the St. Mark’s Institute of Mathematics. He supported the St. Mark’s goal of fostering both excellence in teaching and diversity among the School’s adult population, and he was charged with spearheading the School’s developing an effective targeted internship program for teachers of color.

At the turn of the 21st century, Ginny transitioned into the role of bookstore manager. Each year, she was one of the first on campus to get to know the names of 100 new students. She was extremely studious, fondly for their accessibility, generosity, and even their personal quirks.

With the retirement of Senior Master Andy Harris in 2015, that distinction fell to Rick Umiker. Approaching the honor thoughtfully, he decided to rename it. “I see the noun ‘master’ as carrying an undeniability of the masculine.”

‘Master’ is something to which all can aspire. However, we have reached an era, in this century, for which the word ‘master,’ in reference to our classrooms, too likely connotes leadership that is dominating.”

And, as he noted, male-centered. The next most senior faculty after Rick is a woman—Barth Putnam—and the title, he felt, should clearly reflect the potentiality that one day a female faculty member might hold that position. “I also fear,” Rick said, “that the word is laden with so many other negative connotations that the work that I have done in making St. Mark’s a more gender and racially diverse place is somewhat undermined by my acceptance of such a title. In 2015, our teaching faculty respectfully refer to themselves and our colleagues as ‘teachers,’ not ‘masters.’ Therefore, I believe it is time to refer to the most senior member of that group as the Senior Teacher.”

As senior teacher, with the advent of the Community and Equity program at the School, Rick continued to advocate for diversity and inclusivity. “My long experience,” he wrote, “continues to confirm that we are strongest, as well as reaching for the most beneficial growth, when we embrace diversity and the significant challenges, discomfort, and even conflict that it brings. It is in the richness of the relationships that grow thoroughly and honestly toward goals but not at the expense of character.”

Yes, the Umikers will be retiring to New Hampshire (and Rick still longs for New Hampshire), but Barb, who will be inheriting this mantle of senior teacher at Rick’s retirement, knows that they will not be forgotten.

“Rick and Ginny will be remembered fondly for their accessibility, generosity, and their dedication to the School and its values,” she says. “Such is the legacy of this family whose kindness and charity have touched so many of us.”

“Storied Career

Marion Donovon came to Southborough in 1995 as an associate librarian, after a 20-year career as a high school history teacher. Always a lover of history (it was also her major as an undergraduate at Smith College), she has occasionally been called upon to leave the library and teach that subject to St. Markers, most notably when veteran teacher David Lyons was on sabbatical. So at St. Mark’s, Marion has worn many hats—including librarian, teacher, and advisor—and in all those roles she has had a tremendous impact on students at the School.

Her greatest impact, of course, has been in the library, where she was a constant presence over the past quarter century. For many years she worked closely with evening study prefects in the library. Working under four different head librarians, she introduced hundreds of St. Markers to valuable resources, supporting their academic and leisure pursuits with equanimity and insight.

“Some of my closest ties over the years,” Marion says, “have been with young readers and writers who established themselves as true democrats of the library.”

Her love of books extended to students’ non-academic pursuits.

“In my III Form year,” writes Brent Brown’32, “I was spending a few free periods each week helping with book restoration under Marion’s guidance. Although my foray into the craft of book restoration was brief, Marion quickly became one of my biggest advocates during my successful—and sometimes less than successful—exploits while there.”

Outside the library, Marion worked with the International Club, the GSA, the Young Republicans, and the St. Mark’s’ Storied Career
For Marion, advising has been her “great joy.” As she speaks Japanese, her first advisors were the Kyoto exchange students, but there have been many others since.

“Tuition paid for my university studies, and it was teaching AP European History for Mrs. Donovan as my advisor during my four years at St. Mark’s,” writes Angela Ichi ‘13. “Advising period was often the highlight of my day. Every week, our advising group sat around the round table with a warm cup of black tea in our hands, reflecting on our week and checking on each other. Our advising group became close friends, and Mrs. Donovan soon became a maternal figure to me on campus. She was the best listener, always gave the best advice, and most importantly, made me feel at home.”

Sera Park ‘13 agrees. “Marion’s gift to the three of us in her advisory group encapsulated her care and thoughtfulness. She had handcrafted miniature models of our desks, featuring all the items that symbolized each of our passions and aspirations. Mine featured, among others, a guitar, a soccer ball, and even a miniature Vinder magazine, opened to the page of the poem that I had written. I remember receiving this exceptionally special gift just days before Prite Day. I will never forget the expression on her face when she opened it, and I will always cherish her gift.”

“Do you like blueberries?” she asked, and I said yes. She then gave me a plate of blueberry muffins she had baked.” Later, when Jonathan invited Marion to his wife’s baby shower, “I told her she didn’t have to worry about getting a gift. She looked me in the eye and said, very seriously, ‘I’m sorry, gifts are non-negotiable.’”

Retirement should give Marion more time for her hobbies as well as spend time with family. She has been a “great joy” for St. Mark’s community, wishering the School’s facilities crew who has known the School’s campus, and thus all the School’s programs, going strong. She will enjoy his much-deserved retirement. A member (and past president) of the Ashland Fish & Game Club, he should have more time to pursue his hobbies as well as spend time with family. A grateful St. Mark’s community wishes him the best.
Nicolas Braun ’06 takes a break from his hit HBO series To chat with Illia Rebchuk ’20 and Sydney Williams ’22.

By the time Nicholas Braun ’06 arrived at St. Mark’s, he had already been acting for nearly a decade. In 2001 he made his television debut in the made-for-TV movie Walter and Henry, and in 2005 he reached wider audiences in the Walt Disney Pictures feature Sky High. Now in his third season playing Greg in the HBO series Succession—winner of the 2020 Golden Globe for Drama TV Series—Braun returned to St. Mark’s in February to work with students in filmmaking and theater classes and rehearsals for the winter play.
How has your life changed since Succession?

My whole life changed. It’s the biggest thing that I’ve ever been in, in that so many people around the world have watched it and we won a Golden Globe award. It’s something I’ve never experienced.

Did you think it was going to become as big as it did?

Definitely not. I’ve done so many things that I thought were going to be successful, and then things turn out badly or people don’t care about the project.

What prompted you to attend St. Mark’s when you had the option of theater schools?

I did a movie when I was 11 and the director gave me advice not to make my whole life about acting—“to live my life as if I couldn’t bring that full life to my characters and to my work.” Coming to St. Mark’s, I felt like I could study anything. I did a few plays ([Picnic at the Lapin Agile, Twelfth Night, and Our Town]), but I didn’t take every drama class or do every play. I played sports, I got to do other things. So I felt that time where I could spread out myself a bit and see if I liked anything else.

Do you think there’s a major difference between film and television and on stage acting?

I do. When I was at St. Mark’s and working on [肴鹤 Yên Hợp], I was taking acting classes on my days off. During college I would take an acting class every Saturday morning. It’s good to have a safe place to go back to the grind and go back to class, then go back and go to another audition. I already knew that acting is the thing that makes me the most happy. My parents asked me to complete two years of college then decide if I wanted an acting career. I was set on proving myself. I had to be a manager and a producer, and I got this movie [Maniac], which was a Disney Channel movie, followed by [Princess Protection Program]. I knew I would do OK and my parents understood. After that I was a series regular on a TV show called 10 Things I Hate About You. I got a pretty good paycheck and decided to take the risk. It’s a crazy career, and a weird one. You’re putting a lot on the line; you do a job that seems like the biggest job of your life and then it’s over in four months and you have to go get another one.

Do you like that short-term enjoyment in the moment, and then it ends?

I do. I like the temporary feeling of knowing that I’m going to be with a group of people for two months or six months, so I have to make the most of it. Then it’s going to be back to the grind and trying to find something else that is meaningful and a good job. You also have no control over how it turns out; you can get cut out of a movie. There are so many traps in this career where things can go differently than you expected. But I like the risk of it all.

What advice do you have for young actors or just anyone looking into breaking into show business?

Make sure your life has plenty of passions in addition to acting. The more different types of people you meet and understand, the better you can inhabit those types of people as an actor. Also, work hard at your craft and work hard to figure out how and why you are going to pursue acting, because it’s an art where you’re being a human. Figuring out your style isn’t something you just come up with; you have to just do it a lot and eventually you find good and right. And that’s different for everybody. I learned from a bunch of different people at different acting schools and pulled what worked for me. If it doesn’t inspire you or it doesn’t make you feel more amazed in your instrument, then get rid of it. Act the way that makes you feel more connected to a part.

When you were not filming or not on stage, did you have to think about personal growth aspect of that career?

I did. When I was at St. Mark’s and working on [肴鹤 Yên Hợp], I was taking acting classes on my days off. During college I would take an acting class every Saturday morning. It’s good to have a safe place to make mistakes as an actor, because otherwise you’re restrained and you’re watching yourself and you’re protecting yourself. And that’s not a good thing as an actor.

How do you prepare for a character?

I focus on getting a sense of why a writer wrote something. McCann. I think that helped me understand the structure of a story.

What was your education post-St. Mark’s?

I went to Occidental College in L.A., which is a small liberal arts school. I really just wanted to start working as an actor once I left St. Mark’s; the only school I applied to were in New York and L.A.

When did you start auditioning? What was the process of breaking into the business?

During college I would go to an audition and go back to class, then go back and go to another audition. I already knew that acting is the thing that makes me the most happy. My parents asked me to complete two years of college then decide if I wanted an acting career. I was set on proving myself. I had to be a manager and a producer, and I got this movie [Maniac], which was a Disney Channel movie, followed by [Princess Protection Program]. I knew I would do OK and my parents understood. After that I was a series regular on a TV show called 10 Things I Hate About You. I got a pretty good paycheck and decided to take the risk. It’s a crazy career, and a weird one. You’re putting a lot on the line; you do a job that seems like the biggest job of your life and then it’s over in four months and you have to go get another one.

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How do you prepare for a character?

I focus on getting a sense of why a writer wrote something—why a character talks a certain way, what’s the rhythm of the way that they speak or respond, why are they doing certain behaviors. And I try to understand how they fit into the movie or TV show.

It goes back to that notion of “What do I have to bring on stage?”

Yes. Succession, my character Greg, stems in such a low place, with no position in the family. But in the script, most of the scenes were really serious, but Greg’s scenes are kind of funny. Everybody talks with a real slick, confident nature in the rest of it and Greg doesn’t. It’s kind of not sure how to talk to people. So I asked myself, “When do I like that and how can I put my own nervousness, or my own nervousness masked with ambition, into this? What part of me is like this guy?” Because lots of different parts of us are different personalities every day.

Did you have a “fun” moment while attending the Golden Globe awards? Meeting Bong Joon Ho, who directed [寄死恶], Meeting him was a stanetwink moment because that movie is so great. And Meryl Streep. When I saw her I knew I only had one chance, so I went up and tapped her on the shoulder and said, “Meryl” and she turns around and says, “Oh my God, you’re just the love of my life. I think you’re great on your show and I think you guys are going to win tonight.” She whispered it. Because we were up against her show [Big Little Lies].

You did win against Meryl Streep.

How did that feel?

It was surreal. To win at an awards show, where you’re up against people like that and you’re in a room full of people that you just totally revered. It feels like you’re going to go up on stage and your show, that you guys make in your little compartment, is going to win. Or that Meryl Streep has spent time watching this thing that we make. It continues to be very surprising.

This interview has been edited and condensed.
**St. Markers**

Lives of Consequence
Four St. Markers share their COVID-19 stories

“St. Mark’s School educates young people for lives of leadership and service,” declares the familiar St. Mark’s mission statement. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we reached out to alumni to ask how they are leading lives of leadership and service during this unprecedented time.

According to domestic hunger-relief organization Feeding America, 98 percent of food banks reported an increase in demand for food assistance compared to this time last year. The Brookings Institution reports that “since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has increased in the United States.” It’s particularly true in households with young children. But Jewel Greenberg ’98 is working to create change.

“I’ve joined the team of Crop Swap LA, recently featured in Time magazine, to coordinate their volunteer fruit and food-picking efforts,” she says. “We source local backyard fruit trees, organize volunteers to pick the extra fruit, and distribute the produce to local organizations feeding the homeless and supporting others who have food access problems. In this time of COVID-19, all volunteers wear masks and gloves, and work with social distancing guidelines. Our work has been deemed essential so we’re providing access to fresh food to communities that may otherwise go without. I’ve also started a Facebook group for gardeners in my neighborhood where we’re sharing seeds, advice, successes, failures and, eventually, food, once things get growing. In a time when many seed suppliers are sold out for the season, I’ve been able to pull my neighborhood together to share what we have and support our hyper-local food supply.”

Carrie Hill ’98 is busy sewing masks— for frontline workers and anyone else in need—to help stop the spread of COVID-19. “I am a member of a collective of artists and craftsmen who work in the art department on films, commercials, and photography productions in New York City called Artcube,” she says. With the advent of COVID-19, “we began making face shields by hand for frontline workers March 21 and over the next month delivered 2,500 to NYC hospitals and other frontline workers. Now a network of production shops, including the one that produces sets for SNL, are cranking them out by the thousands using CNC machines and 3D printers. We have raised over $15,000 and I’m humbled by the number of my St. Mark’s classmates who donated. If you would like to donate, please go to www.artcubeatny.com, or Instagram you can follow ArtcubeArmy to see our ongoing work to support frontline workers battling this virus. I also put together a collective of local sewers in my neighborhood to make the cloth masks, which we distribute to the hospitals and anyone in need of a mask, such as the elderly and local grocery store workers.”

Andrew Kim ’07 of Plover, Inc. says, “On March 18, our team decided to suspend normal operations and dedicate all engineering resources to designing, prototyping, and delivering non-invasive ventilators to our healthcare providers. After exactly one month, our team completed the design and construction of fully functioning ventilators with the involvement of over 10 critical care specialists, pulmonologists, and respiratory therapists. One unit, along with our documented work, is going to Professor Lonny Ashworth, director of respiratory care at Boise State University and a leading expert in ventilators, who will continue this work.”

This is us
**CLASS NOTES**

**1951**

"Life goes on," says Robert Leeson. "We think we are healthy, and our offspring (also three SM grad) will be well, as well. Our fourth (who lives in Taino, New Mexico) just broke his leg, but he will survive and his family is busy, as well. Piggy and I live in Wakefield, Rhode Island... and we would enjoy meeting up with any SM alum traveling in this area. I have also concentrated my spare time to donate much of my time on boards and committees of non-profit organizations, which have as their goal the improvement and/or protection of various aspects of our environment such as wild birds and animals, the land they inhabit, salt and freshwater and the marshes that surround/protect them, natural forest areas and their wild inhabitants, the environment in general, and the elimination of those activities which are polluting it.

I have written a piano sonata that has been performed by the concert pianist Jenny Lin and published by Supertrain records," writes Henry Ziegler. "You can access it by logging into Supertrain Records and going to ‘releases.’"

**1954**

Sheldon Clark remembers that "I thanked Latin" and asks that the School ‘please change my grade from an F to a D+ thanks! But I could pass that football for Benny (Howarth)!"

John Curtis shared that "as a teacher/school director for virtually all of my life, most of my work and volunteerism has been in connection with young people. Probably the most rewarding ‘volunteering’ has come from an activity my wife Alison (my VI Form Dance dir) and I have been involved with for the past 21 years: introducing Africa to groups of a dozen or so 15-year-olds.

“It is not just the successful execu- tion of the activities themselves that produce the paycheck for us or for our students. These all tend to reinforce the beautiful significant mate, showing me how to survive old age. Hope all my classmates are well, avoiding the virus. Planning to visit St. Mark's for the reunions.” Crocker remembers fondly former faculty member John Carey, “for his support, long-term communications.”

George Strawbridge—Farmer Strawbridge—a breeder of more than 100 graded/group stakes winners since 1993, was honored in January with the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Breeder by the Thoroughbred Racing Associations of America. A nice piece in Bloodhorse can be found at https://www.bloodhorse.com/breeding/racing/accessories/2881510/eclipse-breeder-of-year-breeders-strawbridge.

**1955**

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Sheldon Clark remembers that "I thanked Latin" and asks that the School ‘please change my grade from an F to a D+ thanks! But I could pass that football for Benny (Howarth)!”

John Curtis shared that “as a teacher/school director for virtually all of my life, most of my work and volunteerism has been in connection with young people. Probably the most rewarding ‘volunteering’ has come from an activity my wife Alison (my VI Form Dance dir) and I have been involved with for the past 21 years: introducing Africa to groups of a dozen or so 15-year-olds.

“It is not just the successful execu- tion of the activities themselves that produce the paycheck for us or for our students. These all tend to reinforce the beautiful significant mate, showing me how to survive old age. Hope all my classmates are well, avoiding the virus. Planning to visit St. Mark's for the reunions.” Crocker remembers fondly former faculty member John Carey, “for his support, long-term communications.”

George Strawbridge—Farmer Strawbridge—a breeder of more than 100 graded/group stakes winners since 1993, was honored in January with the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Breeder by the Thoroughbred Racing Associations of America. A nice piece in Bloodhorse can be found at https://www.bloodhorse.com/breeding/racing/accessories/2881510/eclipse-breeder-of-year-breeders-strawbridge.

**1955**

"Life goes on," says Robert Leeson. "We think we are healthy, and our offspring (also three SM grad) will be well, as well. Our fourth (who lives in Taino, New Mexico) just broke his leg, but he will survive and his family is busy, as well. Piggy and I live in Wakefield, Rhode Island... and we would enjoy meeting up with any SM alum traveling in this area. I have also concentrated my spare time to donate much of my time on boards and committees of non-profit organizations, which have as their goal the improvement and/or protection of various aspects of our environment such as wild birds and animals, the land they inhabit, salt and freshwater and the marshes that surround/protect them, natural forest areas and their wild inhabitants, the environment in general, and the elimination of those activities which are polluting it.

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spending time with our friends in San Diego and frequent local restaurants in the Del Mar area several nights a week.”

Geoffrey Platt Jr. reports: “Wiring this in week four of coronavirus shelter-in-place, which Hope and I are honoring in our home in Bethesda, Maryland, where we moved back to in 2017 after 20 years of renting it out. Closer now to son and family (17-month-old grandson and a granddaught in expected in June) in Baltimore. From our bunk, I cannot do what I love especially, singing in an excellent church choir. Retired, but I am a blogger on nonprofit issues. See www.geoffplattvolunteering.com for the 80 of them I’ve written over the past nine years, and which I hope to continue doing, despite the changing world. Away virus!”

1960
Philip Gaffney sent us a photo “of a bronze statue of Washington, Lafayette, and Hamilton prominently positioned at the center of the Morrisian Green across from the site where these three giants of the Revolution met in 1777 at the Jacob Arnold Tavern immediately following the Battle of Princeton. What a coincidence that we are pure in historic Morristown.” He wrote that “The Washington Association of New Jersey presented to the Morristown Medical Center a check to benefit the well-being and recognition of their first responders. It was altogether fitting that of George Washington’s highest priorities was the welfare of his soldiers by insulating them during the smallpox epidemic during 1775, and almost 250 years later, the Washington Association of New Jersey is supporting the urgent needs of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Joe Sheppard is the author of Slosh Places, a compilation, pub-lished on Amazon, of more than 40 “Slosh’s Place” columns written for the Lawrence Academy website between 2011 and 2018. They include profiles of people, stories of school and family life, anecdotes both humorous and touching, and more, all gleaned from Sheppard’s memories of a 48-year career at the school.

1963
Roger Nott shares “I just returned from a week canoeing trip in the Everglades, where I surprised a pan-ther along the Faka Union River.”

1964
“I merged out of my energy consult- ing business in 2015, very happily,” says Gordon Boyd. “Volunteer work has more than replaced the business. Since 2012, before the pandemic, he has helped lead Bethesda Episcopal Church in Saratoga Springs, New York, in a transformational restructur- ing of its property assets and adopting a renewed mission of service in its community, starting with the sale of an old rectory, an older parish house and other land. As president of Mercy Saratoga, Inc., https://mercybse- rosports.org, Boyd has coordinated the development of a $11.5 million addition to the church that will contain apartments for 40 people with disabilities who might otherwise be homeless. Construction is set to begin this spring. People with drug or alcohol disabilities, mental illness, and injured workers from the stables at the racetrack will be accommodated in the midst of the city’s historic district. This mission has taken on significantly more importance during the pandemic. People in substance recovery or who are homeless require accommodations, have health condi- tions that demand case. Partnerships with local sponsor will increase the operation economically sustainable. Legal/setting issues were resolved based on the First Amendment of the Constitution and the Gospel of St. Matthew 25: 34-45. Bethesda’s case is inspiring other churches in the community and beyond to look at their legacy property in light of long-term housing needs of people we emerge from COVID-19.”

Tom T. Gray Jr. writes that “I finally retired and closed up shop at A.T. Gray Architects, P.C. after 40 years. I spent this last winter ski- ing 55 days in Sun Valley until the mountains were closed down March 15. Living mostly in Idaho with two new nieces now, I am able to bike and hike, concentrating on getting into shape for my ‘golden years!’”

1967
Terry Collier writes that “Maria and I celebrated our 50th wedding anni-versary this year. Fortunately, we sold our food service distribution business in the leeward islands of the Caribbean, just before the hurricanes and pandemic hit. So we are comfort- ably retired in Palm Beach, where I kisskiss and paddle sail. Harkening back to my days of the rock chapel service, I’ve built a home studio now that there is time for creating music again. With two daughters and two

Congratulations

Athletic Hall of Fame 2020 Inductees

Induction Ceremony: Saturday, May 1, 2021 (Reunion Weekend)

Please visit www.stmarksschool.org/AHOF to learn more about achievements of these remarkable inductees.
grandchildren, we are truly blessed. Here are two photos: one of my wife and I on our retirement and one of my brothers, all of whom are SM graduates.

While at SM, his favorite class was Theatre of Absurd with Mr. Wicism, and his favorite faculty member was Fritz Wiedergott, “who taught me that I could push myself to new heights.”

1968

Reece Fritchman declares: “Tom Brady, you’re no David Sawyier!” And thus he began a tribute to his favorite player.

“David Sawyier is the GOAT,” he writes. “He deserves this sobriquet, one more addition to a hard-to-believe collection of awards, recognitions to MHA-EM, and for his service to humanity, the Missouri Athletic Club, and Rohan Woods School.

Sawyier was honored by Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri (MHA-EM) with their 2020 John C. Warren Award for his work in mental health advocacy and longitudinal commitment to MHA-EM spans nearly 30 years. During that time, he has been a vocal voice on our programs and the people we serve. Nail’s leadership has served our organization well and has helped shape our mission for continued impact and growth.”

Wahl joined the MHA-EM board of directors in 1992, and completed a term as board president in December 2019. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the organization’s current home, the historic Warner Mansion, located on South Grand. He is co-founder of Title Holdings, LLC. He attended Law School at St. Louis University. In 2004, he co-founded McKenzie Enterprises, LLC, a historic renovation company focused on contributing to the revitalization of downtown St. Louis and Kansas City.

In addition to his significant contributions to MHA-EM, he has served in volunteer leadership roles with Habitat for Humanity, the Missouri Athletic Club, and Rohan Woods School.

1980

Laurence (Larry) Castelli shares that “I recently retired from the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, after 30 years of service. My recovery from the 2019 Silver Bell Award, which he was instrumental in accepting the award on December 6, 2019, at the nonprofit’s annual Snow Bell Gala, held at the Four Seasons St. Louis. The Silver Bell Award is given annually to recognize individuals or organizations that provide outstanding community service, leadership, vision, and values. “We are delighted to have the opportunity to honor Nat with the Silver Bell Award,” and Suzanne King, president and CEO. “He possesses for mental health advocacy and longitudinal commitment to MHA-EM spans nearly 30 years. During that time, he has been a vocal voice on our programs and the people we serve. Nail’s leadership has served our organization well and has helped shape our mission for continued impact and growth.”

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Lindy (Lindquist) McDonough and husband Connor McKean ’05 are living near Providence and have taken her luxury goods maker space and her engineering know-how to create masks and face shields for hospitals!

Kate (Bryant) Nordstrom and her husband Barrett welcomed Lillian Katharine Nordstrom on January 14, 2020. Liddy is excited to be a member of the St. Mark’s Class of 2018. In the meantime, she looks forward to watching NC races this fall with her parents.

2005

Kevin Nguyen is now a published author. This article and interview with NPR talks about his new book, New Waves, which is getting national attention: https://www.npr.org/2020/03/10/814164937/new-waves-asks-how-can-we-form-true-

2020

Dr. Colin Smith is deployed to New York City. Prior to a career as a physician with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps as part of the DoD/PHS response to treat patients with COVID-19 in NYC.

2008

Jiji Ahn reports that she is “serving the medical frontlines for the coronavirus pandemic in Michigan. Hope everyone is doing their part in staying safe and keeping social distance!”

2006

Melissa King wrote: “I am currently working for the Museum Conservation Institute at the Smithsonian as part of my final year of graduate school. I will be graduating with an MS in art conservation from the Winterthur/ University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation in August 2020. Following graduation, I will be a fellow in preventive conservation in the Department of Scientific Research at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. I am also engaged to my partner of eight years, Samir, and we have plans to marry in early 2020!”

2018

In the fall, I started a new position as the instrumental music director at Tabor Academy. It’s great to be back in the United States and at a school in ESL again. In the winter, I served as an assistant coach for the girls’ varsity hockey team and we had an incredible season! As we’ve transitioned to online teaching, I’ve found new ways to connect with my students and colleagues while we figure out this new normal for now. My advise Mr. Bryant continued to be a close mentor for me as I entered my career as a teacher in the boarding school world six years ago. I enjoyed getting to see her and catch up when Tabor played at St. Mark’s this past winter.”

2010

Shaun McGovern relays that “post-pandemic, I was living in Johannesburg and in a role supporting Ministries of Health across Southern Africa, such as those in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, to scale access to optimal medicines for HIV treatment. In light of COVID19, I have moved my family back to my home state to be closer to my family and am still supporting national HIV programs from afar, in particular helping Ministries implement interventions to keep people living with HIV safe and healthy during the pandemic and ensure that the provision of critical HIV services continues even in light of national lockdowns. I look forward to the day when the world goes back to normal and I’m able to return to beautiful South Africa”

2012

Nadine Cunningham writes that “this fall, I started a new position as the instrumental music director at Tabor Academy. It’s great to be back in the United States and at a school in ESL again. In the winter, I served as an assistant coach for the girls’ varsity hockey team and we had an incredible season! As we’ve transitioned to online teaching, I’ve found new ways to connect with my students and colleagues while we figure out this new normal for now. My advise Mr. Bryant continued to be a close mentor for me as I entered my career as a teacher in the boarding school world six years ago. I enjoyed getting to see her and catch up when Tabor played at St. Mark’s this past winter.”
1937 William Abbott King died on April 18, 2020, of natural causes. He was 101, and was the School’s oldest living alumnus. A native of Minneapolis, Bill attended the Blake School in Hopkins, Minnesota, before attending in Southbridge. At St. Mark’s he excelled as an athlete. He played football, ice hockey, baseball, and soccer. Bill went on to Yale before joining the U.S. Navy during World War II and serving as a pilot and navigator. He worked for Northrup, King & Co., the family seed business, in the field and as sales manager of Speakman Co. in 1947 and 1948, and then owner and operator of Hill Farms, a union that resulted in eight children. Bill was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Patricia O’Donnell King. He died peacefully on March 5, 2020. He was 93.

1940 Harry G. “Hal” Haskell Jr. died on January 16, 2020, at his home in Bothell, Washington. A Boston native, at St. Mark’s Bill was a monitor at Brantwood Camp. Most significant, though, were his athletic accomplishments. Bill played soccer, ice hockey (the team’s second leading scorer as a VT Flier), and baseball (“most improved” player on the team in 1940). For his athletic accomplishments, along with his outstanding leadership and sportsmanship, he was awarded the Framing Athletic Prize for 1941. Bill matriculated at Harvard, but left college to serve in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War. He returned to Harvard after the war and he lettered in both hockey and baseball for the Crimson in 1947. Senior year, he was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers to cut for their 1948 Brooklyn Junior Dodgers team playing in Nova Scotia. Bill later received an MBA from Harvard Business School. He joined IBM, returning after his 45-year career, he was manager of the Cambridge sales office and retired as a managing director in advanced systems development. Bill was married 60 years, singing Gilbert & Sullivan operas in New York’s Blue Hill Temple. They married in 1973. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, and his children William T. Hamblin Jr. and Anne Hamblin Lyen.

1942 Houston Thomas Davis died passed away peacefully on October 16, 2020, at his home in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. He was predeceased by his daughter, Maria. He is survived by his wife, Andrea; his children Ben, Charles, James, Jona, and Alastair; his wife’s sister, and loved friends-in-law; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On a happy note, the latest of these was born just a week after the service: Henry William Columbus Dombowitz came into the world on March 23.

1945 James Leslie Jr. died on May 24, 2017. He was 89.

1946 Thomas Hines died on December 14, 2020, of natural causes. He was 91.

1947 James W. Davis died on January 9, 2019. He was 91.

1948 Houston Thomas Davis passed away peacefully on October 16, 2020, at his home in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. He was predeceased by his daughter, Maria. He is survived by his wife, Andrea; his children Ben, Charles, James, Jona, and Alastair; his wife’s sister, and loved friends-in-law; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On a happy note, the latest of these was born just a week after the service: Henry William Columbus Dombowitz came into the world on March 23.
He composed music for which Marybeth wrote the lyrics; their music is a musical. Leighton was a wonderful athlete; musician, executive, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. He was predeceased by his older siblings, Francis “Red” Leighton Lobdell (SM Class of 1940) and Brenda Lobdell Taylor Rudner, and by Marybeth in March of 2015. He lived by his five children, his three stepchildren, and their children and grandchildren. 1946 Glason B. Greene died on August 13, 2019. He was 89. After St. Mark’s, Glason played for two years on the football squad, but his greatest interest was in radio. For four years, from 1944 through 1948, he was president of the St. Mark’s Radio Club. After Saving St. Mark’s, he spent a year at Aven Old Farms School, and then matriculated at Rollins College in Florida. His college career was interrupted by the Korean War, when he served in the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Judy, were married in 1952. Glason went on to work at IBM. Ten years after his retirement, he founded ITM support company Corporationes, LLC in Stamford, Connecticut. Glason loved to garden and he was loved and cherished by many people. He is survived by Judy Greene, his wife of 67 years; his brother Kenneth L. Greene (Carolyn); sister Judith H. Greene; two daughters, Martha Andranos (David) and Edith Greene; two grandchildren, Helen Bancroft Andranos and Elizabeth Orhan Andranos; and several nieces and nephews. 1940 John Smith McCoy passed away on April 6, 2020, after a long battle with cancer. He was 91. Although only at St. Mark’s for two years, John was elected vice president of his class as a III Former and served on the Student Council. He was a strong athlete, playing both varsity football and varsity hockey as a IV Former. John eventually returned home to Winnetka, Illinois, and graduated from North Shore Country Day School. He enlisted in the United States Army and served as a tank commander in the Korean conflict. Upon his return from Korea, he started his life as a general manager and fly fisherman, possessed of an incredible talent as a sketch artist, and was an accomplished water-colorist. Another of his greatest joys in life was listening to jazz and sharing that love with his family. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 46 years, Laura Virginia (Gingy) Allen McCoy, in 2001. He is survived by his three children and their spouses: Julia (Allen) McCoy Bertram and Lawrence R. Bertram of Merrimac, Massachusetts; John Smith McCoy III and Anne (Kelly) McCoy of Annapolis, Maryland; and his sister, Nancy (McCoy) Henrichs of Humble, Texas; and his stepbrother Mansfield (Duke) Schmidt Templeton of Stuart, Florida. In addition, he is survived by his longtime, much-loved companion, Edith Reid Egle of Palm Beach, Florida. 1948 Lawrence K. Miller died on July 8, 2018. He was 98. At St. Mark’s, Lawrence was a monitor and Prefect, and he served on the Student Council. He sang in the Choir as a II Former and worked on the Branwood Store Committee. He enjoyed athletics and was a varsity on the varsity crew during the spring of his II, III, and IV Form years. In the winter of his senior year, he played on the hockey squad, but the following year he changed over to wrestling. He returned to the varsity crew as a rower during his VI Form spring, striking the second boat for coach David S. M. Lanières. After St. Mark’s he attended Stanford. He had a long career as a petroleum products distributor, particularly with the Sure Oil and Chemical Company based in Westminster, Colorado. Active in local enterprises, he was a supporter of the American Antiquarian Society there. He retired to Nantucket with his wife, Happy. He was predeceased by his wife, Harriet Coggins Miller, who passed away in 2017. 1940 Herbert Peter Pullitzer died on April 14, 1984. He was 88. Given that Peter’s uncle had graduated from St. Mark’s in 1902 and his father, Herbert “Tony” Pullitzer, graduated in 1930, his St. Mark’s in 1935, his destination was predetermined. At St. Mark’s, Peter was a monitor, Prefect, form officer, and member of the Student Council. He was active on both the Entertainment and Dance Committee and sang in the Choir under director Stan Sheppard. He also appeared in Mr. Sheppard’s 1937 musical comedy Tomb the Jags, and approximately played a journalist in the Dramatic Club’s production of Howard Koch’s It’s Time to Come that same year. He had other small parts in earlier Dramatic Club productions. He also did well academically, was active in the School’s chapel program, and served as a volunteer counselor at Branwood Camp. Upon his graduation from St. Mark’s, Peter went to college but soon became bored and pursued a career that began with a liquor store and bowling alley and grew to include citrus groves, cattle ranches, a wildly popular Palm Beach restaurant, real estate holdings, and hotels. In 1950, he met his sister Pam’s friend, Lillian (Lilly) McKim. The two eloped, surprising everybody. Lilly launched what would become a fashion empire of bright cotton dresses during their marriage. Peter helped her build her wildly successful fashion business as he continued building his own empire. He was predeceased by his wife, Happy, and by his sister, Nancy (McCoy) Henrichs of Humble, Texas; and his stepbrother Mansfield (Duke) Schmidt Templeton of Stuart, Florida. In addition, he is survived by his longtime, much-loved companion, Edith Reid Egle of Palm Beach, Florida. 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Peter was also a Prefect and a member of the editorial boards of the Vindic, the St. Mark’s, and Hark. He hung out in the Choir and Glie Club, served on the Student Council, and was a Scholar. He won the Eby Prize for Public Speaking and was awarded the Dr. and Mrs. Thayer Scholarship. As a VI Former, he and classmate Richard Wainwright established the School’s first-ever radio station, “St. Mark’s Radio.” Peter entered Yale but left college to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Russian history at the University of Texas at Austin. He then returned to Yale to receive a master’s degree in education. On graduating, he joined the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C., and from there he went into the Foreign Service, where he served for five years and was assigned to Ankara, Turkey. However, academia was his true calling. His first teaching appointment was at the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Hill’s headmaster at the time was Edward T. Half, St. Mark’s Class of 1937, who had been assistant headmaster at St. Mark’s during Peter’s last two years in Southborough. Peter was chairman of the History Department and coached hockey and
1952

Welden P. Benjamin passed away November 16, 2019, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer’s disease. He was 86.

Known as “Don,” he attended St. Mark’s for two years, playing JV football as a II Former. He then transferred to Keene School and went on to graduate from Boston University in 1957. In his first career he rose to the executive ranks within the insurance industry. Don was known for his charm, dapper style, Hollywood looks, and non-judgmental manner. He loved to burn joyfully into song and write with the love of his life, Karen, who he married 59 years ago. Don built a successful second career as a proud, independent salesman traveling throughout New England representing greeting card companies. While he traveled extensively, he managed to coach his one baseball team.

He is survived by his loving wife, Karen of Brewster; Michael: Charlie and Harry; his grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, his sister Vivian Ensign; and many nieces and nephews.

1952

St. Mark’s was saddened to learn of the passing of Philip D. Isaac on February 27, 2015, as the age of 80.

At St. Mark’s, Philip was a scholar and a member of both the Scientific Society and the Creative Writing Club. He edited the student newspaper, the Vindol, managed the soccer team for coach Gaccon, and rowed on the crew. The summer before his VI Form year he served as a volunteer chaplain at Branham Cathedral.

Philip attended the U.S. Naval Academy, earning his BS in engineering in 1956. He was a Navy flyer, and in the summer of 1961, off Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, he became the first squad pilot to land a jet on the USS Kitty Hawk. He earned a JD in 1967 from University of San Diego School of Law, and had several memorable accomplishments as project director, chief counsel, and legal aid with the Society of San Diego.

Philip was a partner at Carmel Hill, a Honolulu law firm. He also served as a second lieutenant through the University’s Army ROTC program. Trained as a helicopter command officer, he received the Air Medal (with two bronze stars) and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Howie earned his master’s degree from the University of Alaska’s North Star College. He last post was as a First Sergeant, Georgia. He retired with the rank of captain.

1952

Lauren “Larry” Novikoff Horne passed away peacefully on July 7, 2019. He was 82.

Known to his friends as “Red,” he was a Perfect and a member of the St. Mark’s Athletic Association. He played football and was a defensive end at St. Mark’s, and was a founding member of the Newington Youth Soccer Club, starting a girls’ program in the 1970s—one of the first. He served the church in many capacities, as an elder, sharing his expertise on the buildings and grounds committee and teaching Sunday school for many years.

A devoted family man, he is survived by his wife Nancy; children Lauren, Matthew, and Mark; grandchildren: Rebekah, Rachel, and Matt; and many others who loved him deeply, including special family friend Betty Anderson and his dear devoted Health Aide Alena.

1952

Peter Cofone Turner passed away on March 22, 2020. He was 85.

At St. Mark’s, Peter was a Prefect, a member of the Choir and Glee Club, and served as vice president of the Raven’s Nest. He was active with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, was a tech-savvy member of the stage crew, and was on the School’s Entertainment Committee. Peter played soccer for St. Mark’s before capting his team during his VI Form season, helping to lead the Lions to their second consecutive second-place finish in the Private School League. Peter also was on the crew team, coached by David S.M. Lurker.

He went on to attend Trinity College and eventually earned a MBA at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Throughout his military career after graduating from Trinity and in 1960 married Katie.

After leaving active duty, Peter started a 20-plus year civilian career at the Army, first as an under- writer and later focusing on training and developing personnel. He completed his military service in the Naval Reserves, retiring as a commander. In 1983, he joined American Reinsurance as vice president of Property Casualty. He continued working for the U.S. Army, stationed for a while in Korea. He worked for many years as a radio broadcaster and also served on the board of the North Museum.

Peter was born in St. Mark’s, New York, to Howie and Ruth, and was a member of the Class of 1954, heading into his VI Form year. They reconnected and married at the dawn of the 21st Century. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daugh- ter, Emily Home of New York; New York; many nieces: children: Elizabeth “Duffy” Johnson, Mary Burton (James) Mays, and Edward C. (Heidi) Burton; and his ancient children: Christopher, Lisa, and Edward C. (Heidi) Burton; and their one great-granddaughter, Addison Rose.

1952

Laurent “Larry” Novikoff Horne passed away peacefully on July 7, 2019. He was 82.

Larry was founded and was the President of the Shoemakers Radio Club for four years at St. Mark’s. Just three days before Prize Day in 1953, a powerful tornando swept out a violent front from Westport along the Waterfront Road. Warren had been cast as president during his VI Form season, helping to lead the Lions to their second consecutive second-place finish in the Private School League. Peter also was on the crew team, coached by David S.M. Lurker.
team. Tom was active in the Chapel program. He was involved with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and he was a member of the Litchfield Country Club. He is survived by his wife, Muriel (Polly) Brooks and his sons, Nicholas S. Morosani (Patsy) and Alexander Brooks Morosani (Litchfield, Connecticut). Additionally, he is survived by two brothers, George Morosani (Ashville, North Carolina) and John Morosani (Litchfield, Connecticut), a sister, Rosalee (Roop) Morosani (Emerald Hills, California), and marvelous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by a brother Remy (Ricky) Morosani; two sisters, Virginia M. Smith and Francesca M. Thompson, M.D.; and a son, Remy B. Morosani.

Nathaniel Thayer Mason passed away on November 21, 2019. He was 72.

Since his father, John A. Mason, was a member of the St. Mark’s Class of 1930, Nathaniel followed the family tradition and went to school in Southborough.

At St. Mark’s he was a Prefect, a scholar, and editor-in-chief of the St. Mark’s Acolyte Guild. He also played both soccer and lacrosse and was a member of the 1964 lacrosse team that won the Maine Lakes Lacrosse championship. He also played five-in. In addition, Nat was active in the Dramatic Club, the Scandanvian Society, and the Acolyte Guild.

He went to Dartmouth College and then to Harvard Business School where he earned his MBA. Then, after two years of teaching and two years’ service in the U.S. Army, Nat began a career in banking. He worked for Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in Franklin, Tokyo, Japan, the Arab Bank of Amman, Jordan in London; and became the financial director for the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance until his retirement in 2011.

While living in England from 1988 until 2001, he was a member of and public officer for the British Long Distance Swimming Association. He competed in and completed most of his annual events including twice a swim of Lake Windermere, 10½ miles. He also was treasurer of the Channel Swimming Association. He was the final swimmer of a six-person relay team that crossed the English Channel from Dover to Cap Gris Nez, France, in 14 hours and 32 minutes. He later made three attempts to swim across the English Channel from Dover to Cap Gris Nez, France, without success.

He was a longtime member of Stage Harbor Yacht Club and served on the Conservation Commission in Chatham, was treasurer for the Friends of Chatham Waterways, and internal auditor of the Otter River Swim Team.

Nathaniel is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sara, of Westport; and W. Chan; two daughters, Louise of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Rebecca of London, England, (partner to Oliver Ban) with daughters Elizabeth and Klar; He also is survived by his brothers, John of Chatham and Nicholas of Simsbury, Connecticut.

Edmund Lee Wadhams died on March 21, 2018, of natural causes. He was 70.

Edmund was a Prefect and scholar at St. Mark’s. He served as business manager of the Eino, circulation manager of the Voter, and an associate editor of the St. Mark’s Review. He enjoyed theatre, and was a member of the Triton Motor Yacht Club, the French Acolyte Guild.

He graduated from Yale in 1969, a member of the last all-male undergraduate class at Yale. Edmund spent for at least one summer at the French Institute and the Académie Francaise in Paris. He played tennis, and the Tunisian Arab of Bank of Amman, London in Jordan; and became the financial director for the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance until his retirement in 2011.

He was predeceased by his brother Gordon.

Reto Warrington Morosani died unexpectedly on January 5, 2020. He was 74.

In Southborough, Reto was a Prefect and he was involved in the Litchfield Cemetery Association and a member of the Oyster River Swim Team.

Friends of Chatham Waterways, and internal auditor of the Otter River Swim Team.

Reto was predeceased by his brother Gordon. He is survived by his former wife Susan; his daughter, Elizabeth Thompson, M.D.; and a son, Remy B. Morosani.

The son of St. Mark’s faculty member Bruce Gardiner, Duncan F. Gardner was a Prefect and a scholar at St. Mark’s. He also is survived by his uncle, Bob Wilson and his wife Elaine of Uxbridge, Massachusetts; his aunt, Nancy Wilson of Conner Harbor, New Hampshire; his cousin, Ethel Kelly of Mount Vernon, Massachusetts; his uncle, Joe Verno of York, Maine; and a large-in-law family, several nephews, and many close friends.

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Edmund was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Jackie; their son, Douglas Jr., and daughter, Tara Lynn Widhalm; three grandchildren: Bradley, Brayden, and Charlie Rae; Doug’s sisters: Pamela (Terry) Bennett and Online; his niece Elise; and many other family members and friends.

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Friends of Chatham Waterways, and internal auditor of the Otter River Swim Team.

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by Prisilla (SM 1989), his wife of 20 years; their two daughters, Abigail (16) and Rosalie (12), of Haledon, New Jersey; two brothers, Patrick Smith of San Antonio, Texas, and his sister Andrea Kate Sheerin of San Antonio, Texas.

1990
Jeese Charles Cohen died on October 18, 1990. He was 47.

Jeese had what one person described as “a contagious smile,” a smile as wide and sparkling and pure as one of his favorite places: Farm Pond, in Sherborn, Massachusetts.

He attended the Fay School before matriculating at St. Mark’s, where he was a Monitor of a member of the Student Congress, a peer counselor, and a fire captain. He played football on the varsity team and was a model student, a natural leader, and a loyal friend. Kind to everyone, he had an ear for charity and a heart that drew people to him.

Jeese graduated from Brandeis University and earned a law degree from Tulane University. He practiced law in Massachusetts before moving to Florida, where he met his wife, Mari.

Rev. Ward arrived at St. Mark’s in 1950 to undertake his ordination and also introduced a seminar course in theology for adults in the school community. He eventually succeeded to the position of head chaplain in 1965. In 1965, he became headmaster of the Salisbury School in Connecticut. He was president of the National Association of Episcopal Schools from 1970-1973.

Evident of his lasting legacy at Salisbury includes the Ward Prize, presented annually to the graduate who exemplifies his quiet leadership and hard work.

In May 2015, accompanied by his daughter, he took a solo tour of Europe and Scandinavia. He remained an involved parishioner until his death.

He will always be remembered as an innovative teacher, a loyal friend, and a true gentleman. Tim is survived by his wife, Mary, longtime teacher, a loyal friend, and a true gentleman. She welcomed students—her husband’s advisees, younger students—into her home, and she particularly enjoyed attending the flowers in Belmont Chapel.

T ommy had a long career as a high school math teacher, technology teacher, and coach that spanned some 35 years and included stints at some of the finest independent schools in the nation. He taught at St. Mark’s School of Texas and Kent School in Connecticut.

He was married to his beloved wife, Alleine, for 61 years. After retirement, his wife served as pastoral associate at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church on Hilton Head for eight years. He remained an involved parishioner until his death.

Carol was married to her husband’s husband’s advisor, younger students for the annual duty of “pastry” evenings, and others—into her home, and she particularly enjoyed attending the flowers in Belmont Chapel.

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Tom and Bette then concluded his teaching career with a decade at Hebron Academy in Maine. Tom and Bette then retired from home on Cape Cod in 1998. He is survived by his three children: Terry (SM ‘76) and Laura and their family in Lakeville, Connecticut; Robin (SM ‘78) Gardell and husband John and their family in Hanover, Massachusetts; and Leanne (SM ‘80) of Dennis, Massachusetts. Three stepchildren: Jason Pocin of Watertown, Massachusetts; Lisa Pocin of Santa Barbara, California; and Amy Pocin of Fall River, Massachusetts; and eight grandchildren.

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T ommy taught math at St. Mark’s for seven years, where he was also an advocate for curricular innovation. In 1973 he proposed the concept that would come to be called December Week. It took place during the last week of the fall term, replacing the traditional mid-year exams. These were classes and sports were optional. Instead, each student would sign up for a single week-long “course;” five of a day was devoted to focused involvement in a single activity. It was, in many ways, a precursor to today’s Lion Term.

He left St. Mark’s to teach at Cushing Academy. He continued his interest in outside-the-box progressive educational programming by directing the summer elder hostel there. After seven years at Cushing, he took a year off across the world and returned to the campus. He taught history and served as assistant business manager. Two years later, encouraged by then-St. Mark’s Chaplain Harvey Turley, he left the faculty to enter the Virginia Theological Seminary. He received his M.Div. in 1955 from VTS, where he was student body president. After his ordination as an Episcopal priest, he served for four years as vicar of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Troy, Alabama.

In 1959, Rev. Ward returned to St. Mark’s School, ready to assume the responsibilities of assistant chaplain under Mr. Turley. He taught religion and

Joshua Aaron Gitlitz, former St. Mark’s faculty member, died on February 3, 2020, of complications from Parkinson’s Disease. He was 83.

Joshua had a long career as a high school math teacher, technology teacher, and coach that spanned some 35 years and included stints at some of the finest independent schools in the nation. He taught at St. Mark’s School of Texas and Kent School in Connecticut before being brought to Southborough in 1971 by then-headmaster Ned Hall.

Joshua was a recipient of the Ward Prize, presented annually to the graduate who exemplifies his quiet leadership and hard work.

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THAT TIME WHEN

Who was your favorite St. Mark’s faculty member? What was your favorite St. Mark’s class?

“Could’ve been Sleepy Saunders or Roland Saywer (math) or Stan Sheppard (music). I kept in touch with Stan until the end. I would stop at his house during reunions and say ‘hi.’ I still love that man. Of course, there was Bill Barber, but I preferred him on ice. I loved hockey more than the classics—actually, more than anything.”

—JOHN CURTIS ’54

“Art and Art History with Bill Bayhur, who taught an elegy (and poetry). I learned much about art history and went on to teach both for 27 years. I have to include technical drawing with John Carey and the love and acceptance that both Bill and Eve had for all of us wayward boys. I also find myself having mental conversations with Fritz Wiedergott. God bless them all.”

—GEROD ’71 BRYANT

“Mr. Glavin (Latin IV) and Mr. Wales (calculus).”

—LAURENCE (LARRY) CASTELLI ’80

“Classics with Mr. Glasow.”

—MARC LANDRY ’87

“AP History with Mr. Lyons and Independent Study with Rev. Hannibal.”

—TONY SAMMARTINO ’97

“Latin with Mr. Conti and Greek with Dr. Hartnett.”

—CARRIE BRYANT ’04

“Science with Mr. Unger. I think about those classes daily.”

—ROGER HUNT III ’04

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—LOUIS MACKALL ’58

“Walter Badger inspired me to become an English teacher, which I have been for 46 years. I continue to apply his approaches.”

—JOHN CURTIS ’54

“Doc” Sheppard and Butch Sawyer.”

—ROBERT LEESON ’51

“English class with Mr. Badger.”

—SAMMONS GARCIA KIDDE ’03

“Doc” Sheppard (History) and Charlie Chiesfield (English).”

—DEEPYRE PAUL ’69

“I enjoyed Latin with Bill Glavin. Once our class dressed in togas and walked outside speaking Latin to each other. Some classmates threw water balloons at us from a third-floor dorm.”

—BART DOUCET ’62

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—FIONT SAMMARTINO ’97

“Art History, which sparked a lifetime love and appreciation for Chinese art and culture. I now serve on the Board of The American Federation of the Arts for over 10 years.”

—ALEXANDRA DOAN DRUCKER ’97

“Stud ero 1, 2, and 3 with Ms. Putnam. She inspired me to pursue a career in art education.”

—LAURENCE (LARRY) CASTELLI ’80

“Fortunately, Mr. Ehrman (AP Music Theory). It’s rare that you find someone who loves music and truly understands it.”

—AUSTEN T. GRAY, JR. ’64

“VI Form Music Theory with Mr. Stan Sheppard.”

—AUSTEN T. GRAY, JR. ’64

“Fritz Wiedergott.”

—LEIF ROSENBERGER ’68

“Dick Radar (physics) and Tom Wales (math).”

—ED TAFT ’69

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—GEROD ’71 BRYANT

“DNA Science with Dr. Decker. It was a fascinating class that helped me immensely with my neuroscience degree in college. Mr. Sheppard was my favorite teacher and it continues to be defining element in my life.”

—ROBERT STORCK ’08

“My favorite class was ‘Getting Lost’ with Mr. Camp; my favorite teacher was Mr. Dansky.”

—MARCIA LAPLANTE ’16

“‘Getting Lost’ with Mr. Camp and Literature on Trial with Ms. Matthews; favorite teachers were Ms. McBride (calculus), Mr. Lester (statistics), and Mr. Geraghty. I owe three teachers and I will never forget their help.”

—MAEVE MCCUINE ’17

“Latin, with Conti and Unger. I think about those classes daily.”

—ROGER HUNT III ’04

“‘Getting Lost’ with Mr. Camp and ‘The Dystopian Flood’ with Ms. Hultin were my favorites for sure!”

—TOM PAUGH ’19

“Send your answers to editor@stmarksschool.org.”

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Whether here on our Southborough campus or elsewhere in our global community, St. Mark’s students depend on the generous support of alumni, parents, past parents, grandparents, and friends.

Every contribution, of any size, helps St. Mark’s fulfill its mission of educating young people for lives of leadership and service. Gifts to the Annual Fund have a direct and immediate impact on all aspects of the School—the academic program, athletics, arts, financial aid, professional development, facilities, and campus life.

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The Campaign for St. Mark’s School

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